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M E M O R A N D U M

For: The Record

7 October 1948

From: Chief, FBIB

Subject: Conference with Chief of Communications Branch (Col. Schukraft),
Deputy Chief of the Branch (Mr. Coffey), and [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] on 5 October 1948. 25X1

1. The purpose of this conference was to discuss with Colonel Schukraft and Mr. Coffey the following problems:

a. The present unsatisfactory communication service being furnished by the Army Signal Corps from London to Washington, which has deteriorated considerably during the months of August and September and has made it necessary to send an exorbitant file via Western Union. It is estimated that approximately \$20,000 has been spent during these two months, with only \$50,000 being provided in the budget for this purpose during the entire fiscal year 1949.

b. The desire of FBIB to start sending from Washington to London an estimated 5,000 word groups per day to be increased gradually up to approximately 20,000 word groups per day in fulfillment of our reciprocal agreement with the BBC.

c. The possibility of arranging for an FBIB or CIA transmitter to work directly with the BBC, thereby by-passing present Army communication channels.

2. During the conference it was agreed as an interim measure, that:

a. Colonel Schukraft and I would go to the Army Signal Corps, present our problem, and request an improvement in our service.

b. If the Army could not offer us some definite encouragement, we would then ask the Navy to handle our traffic.

c. If neither the Army nor the Navy could handle our traffic, we would consider leasing a transmitter from RCA, at an estimated cost of \$8.00 per hour, to work directly with the BBC.

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3. For longer range planning it was learned that the Communications Branch has a project already approved and in the process of being implemented to construct a transmitter at Ft. Meade, primarily for clandestine purposes, which could, when completed, carry all FBIS traffic direct to the BBC provided the BBC can arrange teletype facilities in England, and provided further that a satisfactory channel can be obtained for this transmission.

4. An appointment was made with Commissioner Sterling of the FCC for 9:30 A.M., 7 October 1948, to discuss the possibility of arranging for such a frequency.

L. K. WHITE

cc: O/O
Admin.
LKW:gm

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